

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A payment system for automatic vending machines, comprising at least one programmable micro processor or electronic chip (10), for univocally identifying fingerprints (30) of each user of said machines, by comparing memorized memory elements (40) of certain scanning points of fingerprint images with the fingerprints (30) of each said user of said machine to effect electronic identification wherein said micro processor or electronic chip (10) comprises a means for memorizes memorizing fingerprints (30) of each user, a means for memorizes memorizing a selected product, and a means for memorizing the price of the selected product, ~~wherein when said selected product is subsequently selected,~~ and a means for reducing said prices of said selected product ~~[[is]] progressively reduced~~ on basis of the volume of said products purchased (90).

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said fingerprints (30) are acquired by means of an electronic acquisition apparatus (20) and identification and comparison procedure (60).

4. (currently amended) The payment system according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 7, wherein said push-button device (52) comprises at least one key (51) for controlling a remaining credit determined from a user's prior depositing of currency in said automatic vending machine, by the pressing of at least one fingertip, whose fingerprint (30) had been memorized.

5. (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said fingerprints (30) are acquired by means of an electronic processing of images relating to geometric forms of said fingerprint (30).

6. (previously presented) The payment system according to claim 5, wherein said micro-processor (10) transmits reading data of said fingerprints (30) to said memory (40), which acts as an archive, associating amounts paid by said users to said digital images of the fingerprints (30) corresponding to said users.

7. (new) The payment system according to claim 1, characterized in that said memorized fingerprints (30) are associated with a price corresponding to the product selected by said user, by means of a pushbutton device (52), so as to progressively scale down its value (70) on the basis of the products consumed (90).